

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 03264 270523Z

20

ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 MED-02 IO-13 OES-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PASS-00 (ISO) W

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P 270430Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2340

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 3264

PASS: QUARANTINE DIVISION, BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, CENTER FOR
DISEASE CONTROL, ATLANTA, GA 30333

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED, SWEL, BM

SUBJ: BUBONIC PLAGUE IN BURMA

1. WHO RANGOON REPORTS THAT THREE SEROLOGICALLY CONFIRMED CASES OF HUMAN BUBONIC PLAGUE, INCLUDING ONE FATALITY, WERE DISCOVERED ON SEPT. 24 IN A MONASTERY IN DOWNTOWN RANGOON. THE BRITISH EMBASSY, ABOUT 500 YARDS FROM THE MONASTERY, IS TAKING DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES, AS ARE CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS.

2. SMALL OUTBREAKS OF PLAGUE ARE COMMON IN BURMA AND SPRAYING, TRAPPING, AND LOCAL INNOCULATIONS HAVE CONTROLLED ALL PREVIOUS FLAREUPS. THESE CASES ARE SOMEWHAT MORE WORRISOME BECAUSE OF THEIR PROXIMITY TO RANGOON'S DOCKS, ALTHOUGH THIS OUTBREAK IS PROBABLY A FLAREUP OF A LONG-STANDING INFECTION RATHER THAN A NEW LOCUS OF DISEASE. WHO SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN EXPERTS HAS FORCED GUB HEALTH AUTHORITIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LONG-STANDING PRESENCE OF PLAGUE IN RANGOON. PREVIOUSLY, THE INCIDENCE OF PLAGUE WAS SYSTEMATICALLY UNDER-REPORTED IN BURMA AND ITS PRESENCE IN RANGOON WAS OFFICIALLY DENIED PROBABLY TO AVOID BAD PRESS AND QUARANTINE MEASURES.

3. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT AND DISEASE CONTROL CENTER
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03264 270523Z

INFORMED OF ALL NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

OSBORN

NOTE BY OCT: PASSED CDC ATLANTA, GA.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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